

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:AFANTIPPAS:FMT

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EA/LC:LMRIVES

INR/REA:WHAMILTON

IO/UNP:JKIMBALL

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R 161715Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010534

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CB

SUBJECT:GRUNK MINISTERIAL SHUFFLE

REF: A. FBIS 84 BK141732; B.FBIS 67 151351;

C. STOCKHOLM 100; D. STOCKHOLM 197

1. FIRST REFERENCED FBIS ITEM IS CAMBODIAN INSURGENT
BROADCAST (AGENCE KHMER D'INFORMATION-AKI) WHICH PUBLISHED
ON JANUARY 14 A LETTER FROM NOMINAL GRUNK PRIME MINISTER
PENN NOUTH TO GRUNK "MINISTERS ON MISSIONS ABROAD" FOR-
WARDING TO THEM A COPY OF DECREE 100 OF NOVEMBER, 1974
"RELIEVING THEM AT THEIR REQUEST OF THEIR MINISTERIAL
FUNCTIONS" IN ORDER TO TRANSFER THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES
TO "CADRES WORKING INSIDE THE COUNTRY". INCLUDED IN THE
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LIST OF MINISTERS RELIEVED ARE:

A. HUOT SAMBATH, MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RECONSTRUCTION;

B. CHEA SAN, MIN OF JUSTICE AND JUDICIARY REFORMS;

C. CHAN YOURAN, MIN OF PEOPLE'S EDUCATION AND YOUTH;

D. THIOUNN MUMM, MIN OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND FINANCE;

E. DUONG SAM OL, MIN FOR ARMAMENT AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT;

F. CHAU SENG, MIN IN CHARGE OF SPECIAL MISSIONS;

G. KEAT CHHON, MIN DELEGATE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE;

H. THIOUNN PRASITH, MIN IN CHARGE OF COORDINATION OF THE EFFORTS OF STRUGGLE; AND

I. NGO HOU, MIN OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS.

2. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MESSRS. THIOUNN MUMM, THIOUNN PRASITH AND CHAU SENG, WHO ARE KNOWN COMMUNISTS, AND POSSIBLY KEAT CHHON AND CHAN YOURAN, ALL OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED ARE SIHANOUK LOYALISTS. THIS DOWNGRADING AND PRESUMED COMPLETE REMOVAL OF SIHANOUKISTS FROM THE COMMUNIST INSURGENT "GOVERNMENT" WAS ANNOUNCED FIRST ON OCTOBER 20, 1973 BY SIHANOUK WHO CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE IDEA AS A MEANS OF COUNTERING CLAIMS THAT THE GRUNK WAS AN EXILE MOVEMENT. OTHER SOURCES HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED THAT THE IDEA WAS INDEED SIHANOUK'S, BUT THAT HE HAD EXPECTED TO SEND HIS FOLLOWERS TO CAMBODIA. HOWEVER, HE WAS ALLEGEDLY OUTFOXED, AND THE COMMUNISTS SHIFTED THE PORTFOLIOS ONLY AND GAVE THEM TO WELL-KNOWN COMMUNISTS IN COUNTRY (WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF NORODOM PHURISSARSA, SIHANOUK'S FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER WHO HAD TAKEN TO THE BUSH IN 1971 AND HELD AS A TOKEN ROYALIST A POSITION ON THE "PHNOM PENH COMMITTEE" A KEY ORGAN OF THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE). SECOND FBIS WAS BROAD-CONFIDENTIAL

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CAST OF DECR 101 OF 15 NOVEMBER 1974 LIST NEW GRUNK CABINET.

3. WE FIND IT INTRIGUING THAT THE KL CLANDESTINE RADIO SHOULD PLAY UP THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SIHANOUK FACTION A FULL 15 MONTHS AFTER SIHANOUK'S OWN STATEMENT AND WONDER WHETHER IT COULD BE IN COUNTRY LEADERS' REPLY TO RECENT SIHANOUK INTERVIEWS AND LETTERS SPECULATING ON POSSIBILITY

HIS INCLUSION OF RIGHTISTS IN HIS GOVERNMENT. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IN THIS REGARD ARE TENDENTIOUS COMMENTS BY SIHANOUK TOWARDS THE KHMER ROUGE ON SWEDISH TELEVISION DETAILED IN REFS C AND D.

4. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED FROM KHMER SOURCES HERE THAT, ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT, A NUMBER OF SIHANOUKIST DIPLOMATS ABROAD, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, HAVE NOT BEEN PAID SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1974. FOR EXAMPLE, AMBASSADOR HUOT SAMBATH, SOMETIME GRUNK MINISTER AND NOW ACCREDITED TO YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA, REPORTEDLY HAS RECEIVED YUGOSLAV FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BECAUSE HIS FUNDS WERE CUT OFF FROM CHINA.

5. WITH THE ABOVE BACKGROUND IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE MISSION COULD APPROACH DR. SAM VADHNAYU, A SPECIAL GKR REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTLY IN GENEVA. HE HAS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT THE OTHER SIDE AND MAY HAVE SOME USEFUL INSIGHTS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GRUNK RESHUFFLE AND ITS TARDY PUBLICITY BY AKI.

6. ANY INFORMATION THAT PARIS AND BELGRADE COULD OBTAIN RE ALLEGED NON-PAYMENT OF SALARIES WOULD BE OF INTEREST. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS), REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE010534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AFANTIPPAS:FMT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750018-0184
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750145/aaaabnwh.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 FBIS 84, 75 BK141732, 75 BIS 67, 75 151351
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUNK MINISTERIAL SHUFFLE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB
To: BELGRADE PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006